

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 – 8 were originally pending in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 were previously cancelled, and claim 9 was previously added. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 have been amended to better define the invention and present these claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Support for the amendments is found in the disclosure of the original drawing of the present application. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 are presently pending for consideration in this application.

The specification has been amended to clarify the subject matter that is disclosed in the specification and shown in the figures, provide uniformity among the various parts of the specification, correct certain grammatical errors, reduce the number of words in “Abstract of the Invention” to 150 words or fewer, and provide generally greater readability. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments is found in the disclosure of the original drawing of the present application.

Also, a replacement Figure 4 is submitted herewith on a separate replacement drawing sheet as an enclosure. Figure 4 has been amended to include two recitations of reference number “15” (and corresponding leader lines) to indicate a pair of extended members 15 that are described in claim 9 of the present application.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner stated that “[c]laim 1 is not clearly understood since ‘said rib is embedded’ does not specify into what object the rib is embedded.” As such, claim 1 has been amended to delete the phrase “is embedded,” and claim 9 has been amended to specify that the rib is embedded between a pair of extended members extending from the dry side door panel opposite the rib so as to create the seal. In this way, the applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 9 are now clearly understood and, thus, definite. Each of claims 3 and 7 is dependent upon amended claim 1 and adds perfecting limitations thereto. These amendments are necessary to overcome the new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

The Examiner also stated that “[c]laims 3 and 7 are not clearly understood and are believed to be misleading because the word, ‘higher’, is used in a manner that is not consistent with the normal meaning when describing the claimed ‘rib.’” In this regard, the Examiner stated also that “[t]he claims must be amended to reflect the comments submitted in the remarks filed on 4/18/2005, particularly ‘the rib 12 extending from the dry [sic] side of the door 10 [sic] further than the thickness of the wrapping layers14.’” As such, claims 3 and 7 have been amended to reflect such comments, namely, that the rib 12 extends from the wet side door panel 8 farther than the thickness of the edge wrapped layer 14. The applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 3 and 7 are now clearly understood and not misleading such that they are definite. These amendments comply with the requirement of form expressly set forth in the previous Office action.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0180236 to Blomeling et al. A claim is said to be anticipated where each and every limitation of the claim can be found in a single reference. The applicants respectfully submit that the respective inventions described in independent claims 1 and 5, as amended, and the corresponding claims dependent thereon are neither disclosed nor suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 publication. Accordingly, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Blomeling et al. '236 Publication

The Blomeling et al. '236 publication discloses a motor vehicle door including an outer wall 2, an inner wall 3, a cladding part 4 provided on the inside of a passenger compartment, an insulation element 5 located between the inner wall 3 and the cladding part 4, and a positively locking embossed edge portion 6 extending away from the inner wall 3 and embedded into the insulation element 5 to form a seal therewith. Rigid end regions 4' of the cladding part 4 form respective clamping jaws and wrap around corresponding edges of the inner wall 3. However, the Blomeling et al. '236 publication fails to disclose or suggest at least one rib extending from a wet side door panel, at least one edge layer wrapped about a top edge of and extending at least partially along the wet side door panel, and a seal created between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel.

The Wrapped Bolster Seal of the Present Invention

In contrast to the Blomeling et al. '236 publication, amended claim 1 of the present invention discloses a wrapped bolster seal for a door of a motor vehicle. The wrapped bolster seal includes at least two door panels, one of which is a wet side door panel and another of which is a dry side door panel disposed opposite the wet side door panel. At least one rib extends from the side of the wet side door panel disposed proximate the dry side door panel. At least one edge layer is wrapped about a top edge of the wet side door panel and extends at least partially along the side of the wet side door panel disposed proximate the dry side door panel. The rib creates a seal between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel. The seal is adapted to reduce moisture from contacting the edge wrapped layer.

Also in contrast to the Blomeling et al. '236 publication, amended claim 5 of the present application discloses a wrapped bolster seal for a door of a motor vehicle. The wrapped bolster seal includes at least two door panels, one of which is a wet side door panel and another of which is a dry side door panel disposed opposite the wet side door panel. At least one rib extends from the side of the wet side door panel disposed proximate the dry side door panel. At least one edge layer is wrapped about a top edge of the wet side door panel and extends at least partially along the side of the wet side door panel disposed proximate the dry side door panel. A foam-like material extends from the dry side door panel. The rib is embedded within the foam-like material so as to create a seal between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel. The seal is adapted to reduce moisture from contacting the edge wrapped layer.

Argument

The applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 1, as amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 publication. In particular, the Blomeling et al. device fails to disclose or suggest at least one rib extending from a wet side door panel, at least one edge layer wrapped about a top edge of and extending at least partially along the wet side door panel, and a seal created between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel as claimed in amended claim 1 of the present application.

On the other hand, the Examiner corresponds the wet side door panel, dry side door panel, at least one rib, and at least one edge wrapped layer of amended claim 1 of the present application with the inner wall 3, cladding part 4, positively locking embossed edge portion 6, and end regions 4' of the cladding part 4, respectively, of the Blomeling et al. '236 device. However, the wet side door panel of the present invention is defined as the panel located closest to the exterior of the motor vehicle. In the Blomeling et al. device, the panel located closest to the exterior of the motor vehicle is the outer wall 2, not the inner wall 3. (The dry side door panel is the cladding part 4.) In the Blomeling et al. '236 publication, the positively locking embossed edge portion 6 extends away from the inner wall 3, not away from the outer wall 2 as required by amended claim 1.

In turn and also unlike the invention of amended claim 1 of the present application, in the Blomeling et al. device, no edge layer is wrapped about any portion of or extends at least partially along the outer wall 2. Rather, the end regions 4' of the cladding part 4 wrap around corresponding edges of the inner wall 3. Likewise, the positively locking embossed edge portion 6 does not create a seal between the outer wall 2 and the cladding part 4. Rather, the positively locking embossed edge portion 6 and the insulation element 5 create a seal between the inner wall 3 and the cladding part 4.

Thus, the applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of amended claim 1 are not found nor suggested in the Blomeling et al. device. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Each of claims 3 and 9 is dependent upon amended claim 1 and adds perfecting limitations thereto. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 9 are allowable over the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Similarly, the applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 5, as amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the Blomeling et al. '236 publication. In particular and identical to the argument made immediately above with respect to the invention of amended claim 1, the Blomeling et al. device fails to disclose or suggest at least one rib extending from a wet side door panel, at least one edge layer wrapped about a top edge of and extending at least partially along the wet side door panel, and a seal created between the wet side door panel and the dry side door panel as claimed in amended claim 5 of the present application.

More specifically, amended claim 5 includes substantially all of the limitations of amended claim 1 and adds at least one limitation. Notwithstanding the addition of such limitation, the argument made immediately above with respect to the certain limitations of amended claim 1 is applicable here since amended claim 5 includes these limitations as well.

Thus, the applicants respectfully submit that the limitations of amended claim 5 are not found nor suggested in the Blomeling et al. device. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 5 is allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 7 is dependent upon amended claim 5 and adds perfecting limitations thereto. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

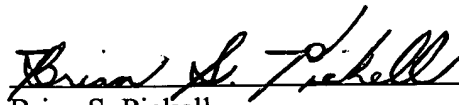
These amendments are necessary to overcome the respective rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and were not earlier presented since the amendments are in response to respective new grounds of rejection.

Thus, the amendments set forth herein present this application in better form for consideration on appeal. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be admitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and the rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites structure that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art and is patentably distinguishable from the cited art discussed above. Each of claims 3 and 9 is dependent upon amended claim 1 and adds perfecting limitations thereto. Independent claim 5, as amended, recites structure that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art and is patentably distinguishable from the cited art discussed above. Claim 7 is dependent upon amended claim 5 and adds perfecting limitations thereto. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the claims pending in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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